THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited have developed a low cost attack helicopter called "Lancer" and three such helicopters have already been delivered to the Indian Army.

(b) It is a Light weight helicopter development as air mobile area weapon system with gun-cum-rocket pods and gun sight provided for accurate aiming and firing by the pilot. Lancer and Advanced Light Helicopter are different class of helicopters designed for different roles and demand for one does not affect that of the other.

Air crashes of IAF fighter aircrafts

2479. SHRI K. RAMA MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crashes of India Air Force fighter air crafts are on the increase;

(b) if so, the crashes took place during the last three years; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken to prevent such crashes in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Details of crashes that took place during the last three years are given in the Statement. (*See* below).

Statement

Air Crashes of IAF Fighter Aircrafts

Financial year	No. of Fighter aircraft Cat-1 accidents	No. of fighter ac lost	HE(A)	TD	BH	HE(S)	UR
1999-2000	21	22*	12	05	02	01	01
2000-2001	17	18*	08	07	02	—	—
2001-2002 (up to 20th November, 2001)	10	10	06	03	01	—	—
TOTAL:	48	50**	26	15	05	01	01

*One additional aircraft lost due to mid-air collision.

HE(A) — Human Error (Aircrew)
TD — Technical Defect
BH — Bird Hit
HE(S) — Human Error (Servicing)
UR — Unresolved

(c) Human Error (HE), Bird Hit (BH) and Technical Defect (TD) have been identified as the main causes of accidents by various Courts of Inquiry. Remedial measures are instituted on the basis of the recommendations of each Court of Inquiry (COI). Measures are being taken to reduce accidents under all categories by formulation of Accident Prevention Programme, Environmental Cleanliness, Bird Hazard control, conduct of studies on HE and TDs and interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited/Original Equipment

Manufacturers. Besides MIG-21 BIS variant aircraft have been planned for upgrade also.

Optimum use of funds for Development of Air Missile System

2480. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Funds for Trishul, Akash not utilised" as reported in the Statesman dated the 26th August, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the funds kept for Akash and Trishul surface to air missiles being developed by DRDO has not been utilised;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to utilise the funds and ensure no lapse on the part of development of air missile system?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Both these projects have encountered cetain technology development problem associated with Command Guidance and Integrated Ram Rocket Propulsion System because of which funds have not been utilized fully.

(d) All out efforts are continuing to establish the technologies by 2003 and utilise the funds.

Indian PoW in Pakistan jails

†2481. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a demand to Government of Pakistan to release Indian Prisoners of War from Pakistani jails;

(b) if so, the number of Indian prisoners of war in Pakistani jails at present as per the figures ascertained by Government;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.